

## STL 6 — Pranks and Robots

### Content Warnings

- Comedic violence
- Violence to animals
- Emotional abuse
- Alcoholism
- Emotional trauma

**BEN**

Hi, I'm Ben. I play David 7.

**TIM**

Hi, I'm Tim. I play Trexel Geistman.

**BEN**

We just wanted to let you know that we really appreciate the support that you've given us already. The response to the first couple of episodes has been fantastic.

**TIM**

It's been really really good, and I've seen we've already some lovely reviews and ratings on iTunes and various places, and that is really the best way of getting the podcast out there and sharing it outside the pocket universe of Rusty Quill. So please take a moment to give us a rating or review on iTunes and to your podcast player of choice. It is incredibly helpful when you do.

**BEN**

**[In a low voice]** Just spread those glands.

**TIM**

**[Forcefully]** Smell our musk!

**TREXEL**

Special thanks to Stuart McQueen for today's submission! May solar radiation bleach your scales in readiness for spawning.

**[Show Theme - Intro]**

**IMOGEN**

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

**[Theme continues]**

**DAVID**

Maybe I could make a knife. If I made a knife, I could... prise open the door, or rewire the light button... Give David light.

**[Footsteps, door opens and Trexel arrives]**

**TREXEL**

**(Sings loudly)** For he's a jolly good fellow!

**(David yelps)**

For he's a jolly good fellow! For he's a jolly good fe-ellow!

**DAVID**

David 7?

**TREXEL**

And Trexel is the best.

**DAVID**

Ah.

**TREXEL**

Oh, Trexel is the best! He is! Oh, Trexel is the best. He is!

**DAVID**

Trexel...

**TREXEL**

For he's a jolly good— Yes, David, how are you doing? I am doing fantastic!

**DAVID**

**(Sarcastically)** Why's that, Trexel? You are still extremely late for work.

**TREXEL**

I. Have. Been. Up. Since. Our. Last. Meeting. Celebrating, David! We did so w—  
Well, I did so well! **(laughs)** Oh my, I feel honoured to allow you to work with  
me, David. I mean, my vision, my skill, and my mental acuity has allowed us to  
get the best review that I've ever had!

**DAVID**

Well, that's... great!

**TREXEL**

Isn't it though!

**DAVID**

**(Choosing words carefully)** Yeah, well, no, it's really good.

**TREXEL**

And I could have done it without you, but I didn't, you were there.

**DAVID**

Well...

**TREXEL**

Thank you, David.

**DAVID**

Yeah.

**TREXEL**

Thank you for sticking by me through all of my threats and being late.

Obviously, we now understand that's all part of the process, David. That's all part of my genius! I know you doubted me, David, but you shouldn't have, because you're an idiot! So what I'm saying is, well done me.

**DAVID**

Yes. So. Well done you, as the seventh clone and apparently the only one to have lasted more than a week.

**TREXEL**

**(Together)** For he's a jolly good fe-ellow! Trexel is the best!

**DAVID**

**(Together)** For he's a jolly good fe-ellow! And so says you.

**TREXEL**

You didn't— **(stutters angrily)** Do it again.

**DAVID**

**(Sighs)**

**(Together)** For he's a jolly good fe-ellow! And Trexel is the best.

**TREXEL**

**(Together)** For he's a jolly good fe-ellow! And Trexel is the best.

I am! Trexel is the best!

**DAVID**

**(Hurriedly)** So, thank you for arriving before the day ended.

**TREXEL**

Good— good 20, 25 minutes before the day ended.

**DAVID**

Didn't wanna break our streak of a perfect 4. Let's make it a perfect 5, so I'm gonna—

**TREXEL**

Let's make it a perfect 6, and then 7, and then who knows, David. Who knows!

**DAVID**

Maybe even 8! Yes!

**TREXEL**

Who— 8? Could be. 9?

**DAVID**

Could be 8! 10...

**TREXEL**

Let's not— let's not dare to dream.

**DAVID**

I will dare to dream because my life depends on it. Anyway, would you like to turn the light on Trexel?

**TREXEL**

But I thought it gave a certain sexy mystique to the room.

**DAVID**

I can't see the button to get the thing.

**TREXEL**

Alright, I'll turn on the lights!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Access granted.

**[Bwoop of lights turning on]**

**TREXEL**

There we go.

**DAVID**

Thank you.

**TREXEL**

Are you happy now? Are you happy now the feng shui is gone? I'm gonna level with you, David, **(chuckling)** I have had a drink or two.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Drunkenness logged.

**TREXEL**

Or three. Or four... Or at this stage, it's been 2 days since I last saw you, so you can assume lots of drinks.

**DAVID**

It's been 3 days, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

3 days!? Wow, one of those days really got away from me then.

**DAVID**

Yep.

**TREXEL**

Good. Party.

**DAVID**

Good! Well, I'm glad you've had fun.

**TREXEL**

I have! What's on the brief?

**DAVID**

Right.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Initiating.

**DAVID**

So, we have a requirement from Megatron\_46.

**(Trexel hums)**

Uh, they are asking for a planet dedicated to the consumption of rare delicacies, and their non-negotiable feature is the native species of the planet must be unfeasibly aggressive in everything they do.

**TREXEL**

Yes. Yes, this— this makes sense. This makes sense! I thought this one would come back to bite us eventually.

**DAVID**

...Really?

**TREXEL**

Yes!

**DAVID**

So, you've had history with Megatron\_46?

**TREXEL**

Not me personally, but, uh, yes, Stellar Firma Ltd. and humankind have had a bit of a history with the Megatrons, yes...

**DAVID**

The Megatrons. So this is the 46th of the Megatrons?

**TREXEL**

Yes, I— I think... I think the issue started when we allowed them to build themselves. Megatron\_1? Lovely robot. Excellent robot. Really helpful. Really hopeful. Megatron\_2? Bit more violent, bit more weapon-y, you know how it is. Military industrial complex gets their little hands in there. "Give it a gun! Let it protect us! Oh, why don't we make it more smart? Here comes Megatron\_3, he can do lots of maths and such." Then it kind of spiralled out of control.

Megatron\_4 can control things with its mind, Megatron\_5 could make other Megatrons, and then they just sort of moved on without us and, um, you know, they have their own society now! Occasionally they threaten war, but thus far, mostly they're customers!

**DAVID**

Right, so how many of them are there? Like, is this— is this the 46th in the line of, like, Megatron Primes? Or is this, like, the 46th ever Megatron, so they— like, they built themselves, but only decided to make like 30.

**TREXEL**

Oh! No, no. This is the 46th ever, but they do have an essentially indefinite lifespan, so they at this stage (**chuckles**) I don't know how many Mega—

**DAVID**

So there's just 46 of them running around?

**TREXEL**

Oh there's— there's many more than 46. It just happens that 46 has given us a call and asked for a planet.

**DAVID**

Ooh! This is not the last Megatron; it's just one of the Megatrons.

**TREXEL**

No! Oh ho, there are lots, and we don't know where they all are.

**DAVID**

Well, since Megatron\_46 has talked to us, do we know anything about Mega—the 46th Megatron?

**TREXEL**

They. Hate. Humans. Oh gosh, they hate humans!

**DAVID**

Do they like to eat humans?

**TREXEL**

No, they're robots, David.

**DAVID**

Well, I mean, yes, but they—

**TREXEL**

Robots don't eat humans.

**DAVID**

But they've asked—

**TREXEL**

Robots eat carbon.

**DAVID**

Okay, so they've— they've asked for the consumption of rare delicacies. Now, from their point of view then, are we just gonna have lots of very interesting carbon strains? Or are they thinking in more in a sort of, commercial sense?

**TREXEL**

It's a good question. We don't know if this planet is for entertaining. They love to organise groups of people against the humans. They invite them 'round, they give them dinners—

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

—they introduce them to dangerous animals— Who knows! They're so inscrutable. I think it's because we didn't give them faces with expressions.

**(David hums)**

Just a big plate... A big plate with a face drawn on.

**DAVID**

Right. In, sort of, marker pen.

**TREXEL**

Oh, well, yes.

**DAVID**

**(Under his breath)** Well, fair enough.

**TREXEL**

Early technology.

**DAVID**

Do we know the expression that exists on Megatron\_46's face?

**TREXEL**

Let me hang— Hang on, shall I get the manual?

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Hang on let's have a look.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Megatron fact file.

**TREXEL**

**(Trexel counting under his breath)**

There we are! 46!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Known images.

**TREXEL**

Ooh! Sort of coy!

**DAVID**

Okay?

**TREXEL**

Sort of a coy, wry smile.

**(David hums in approval)**

Like, you co— you could mistake it for maybe a frown, but you know, there's humour there in the eyes.

**DAVID**

Okay. Right, so a bit of a cheeky Megatron.

**TREXEL**

Bit of a cheeky— Maybe it's a— Maybe— **(gasps)** David! Prank planet.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Pranks detected. Security alerted.

**TREXEL**

Prank planet.

**DAVID**

What's a prank planet?

**TREXEL**

A prank planet! Like a— have you ever heard of a spike planet? It's when you build a planet just to really irritate the planets nearby. A prank planet is like

that, but it's a planet that you make look nice, and then people come along, and then they get on there and all sorts of terrible things happen to them, and then you jump out from behind a tree and go **(victoriously)** "ha ha!"

**DAVID**

But Trexel, the— they haven't asked for a prank planet.

**TREXEL**

Yes!

**DAVID**

They've asked for a—

**TREXEL**

But David, don't you see? I'm a genius, so if I've thought it, then that's what they really want!

**DAVID**

But wouldn't they just want you to follow the brief?

**TREXEL**

I approach planet-building holistically, David. Do you know what holistically means? Of course, you don't. Holistically means 'shut up and listen to me'. I think, therefore I am. I do, therefore I am. So what I'm trying to say is what the brief tells my brain to do must be the right thing to do, because I cannot be wrong! I think our review proved nothing if not that, David.

**DAVID**

**(Monotonously)** Right.

**TREXEL**

Prank planet.

**DAVID**

Prank planet.

**TREXEL**

Prank planet.

**DAVID**

**(Sarcastically)** Okay, what a good idea. Okay, well the prank plant then. What should the pranks be? Should they—

**TREXEL**

**(Tripping over his words)** What are the two elements again? Tell me the two elements.

**DAVID**

Right, so they wanted the consumption of rare delicacies—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—and the native species of the planet must be unfeasibly aggressive in everything they do.

**TREXEL**

The prank's built-in, David. The prank's built-in.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

We need— Now, I know we've done a trough moon. Loved the trough moon. Loved it.

**DAVID**

**(Unsure)** Yes. Hartro seemed really taken with the trough moon.

**TREXEL**

I know they had to change it to make it something else, but the trough moon was great, and I think we should be experimenting with shapes. If we're gonna just put a big dinner table on a ball, that's so last day, you know? You know? That's like a day that's gone. So why don't we try— Throw some shapes at me, David. What shapes could we use?

**DAVID**

Rhombus.

**TREXEL**

Rhombus.

**DAVID**

Parallelogram.

**TREXEL**

Parallelogram.

**DAVID**

Ball.

**TREXEL**

Ball.

**DAVID**

Small ball.

**TREXEL**

Small ball?

**DAVID**

Big ball.

**TREXEL**

Okay, these are variations on ball, David, I think— pretty sure we're not gonna do ball!

**DAVID**

We're not gonna— We're definitely not gonna do a ball.

**TREXEL**

That's for the hacks, David!

**DAVID**

Any iteration of a ball?

**TREXEL**

How thin do you think we could go?

**DAVID**

A thin ball.

**TREXEL**

Like a— Like a— No, not a ball! Not a ball, David, but a ball— but a— like a plank... Like a thin plank of a planet.

**DAVID**

So a table.

**TREXEL**

You know, maybe— Yes! Yes! Oh! David, the planet is the surface of the table, and each moon is a chair, and we have them all in a very delicate balance, so the table planet orbits around the nearest star, but all of the moons are just in stasis, and they just hold their positions, uh, uh, a due stationary position around there, and you sit on a tiny little moon, and then you put your hands—

But those hands? They're on the surface of the planet, David! And thus...  
How're we gonna have animals on that? How are we gonna have animals on that, David?

**(David tries to interject)**

If the planet is a surface and that's the tabletop, where are the animals gonna live? This is ridiculous, David! This is ridiculous. Is this one of your ideas, David?

**DAVID**

**(Giving up)** I... Yes, Trexel, obviously. What about you throw something at me? What about something— I— I mean— Let's really, um, reshape the wheel.

**TREXEL**

I like it.

**DAVID**

You've been doing a lot of... weird... uh... shapes, so what if we go back to— to the ball! You know, wh— what— you know—

**TREXEL**

Simple. Classic. Almost so classic it's unexpected and therefore originally new again— David, shut up, I've got an incredible idea!

**DAVID**

What is it, Trexel?

**TREXEL**

Let's do a ball.

**DAVID**

**(Feigning surprise)** Ooh, really?

**TREXEL**

People will think, “What’s Geistman gonna do? Surely he’s gonna go with some sort of crazy shape.” And then they turn around and they— they take off the— the blanket that they’ve laid over the planet, and they go, “Wow!”

**DAVID**

The ball.

**TREXEL**

“He’s really gone back to basics with this ball.”

**DAVID**

Ball classic.

**TREXEL**

Ball cl— Ball classic. Right. Okay, what size of ball?

**DAVID**

Well, what size are a Megatron?

**TREXEL**

As the name would suggest, pretty big.

**DAVID**

A mega.

**TREXEL**

A mega.

**DAVID**

Kinda big. Okay, well quite a big planet then, maybe. Um, also, you mentioned that Megatron wants to maybe court species—

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**DAVID**

—that don't like humans.

**TREXEL**

Sure, sure.

**DAVID**

Uh, what are the species that don't like humans?

**TREXEL**

Most of them. Most of them.

**DAVID**

Most of them.

**TREXEL**

We're pretty useful. They like our terraforming technology and the—  
**(stammers)** and they like the fact that we provide fancy, fancy goods but as a species, not well-liked.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

I think it's because we destroyed our own planet through hubris, and other people are like, "Mmm if you destroyed your planet through hubris, how are you going to build a good planet for me?" and we say, "Shut up!"

**DAVID**

Sure! Well, seems to be very successful, so that seems to be working. Right, well what is the average size of all the species in the universe? If that is in fact the clientele for people who hate humans.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Clarify.

**TREXEL**

So if, if the sample size for things that hate humans is everyone, what's the precise average of everyone?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Calculating... Results.

**TREXEL**

Well, we've— you've got your megafauna and your minifauna.

**DAVID**

Mm-hmm.

**TREXEL**

Then you've got your gas. Now gas can change side, and there are—

**DAVID**

Wait, so gas hates us?

**TREXEL**

Oh, there are plenty of gas beings that really hate us, David. I— I— I cannot even begin to tell you how many **(laughs lightly)** gaseous bodies really want us to— really want us to fly into a star, so maybe— Ooh! Ooh! Maybe we have a descending scale. So we have a giant place setting, but the table itself, it starts off enormous. A mile wide, chairs as big as mountains, and then as you move around the planet, they become smaller and smaller and smaller until there's a tiny little chair

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

on the **(baby-talk)** end of a tiny little table so germs can sit there, and they can eat a little bit of germ food. Yum yum yum.

**DAVID**

Okay, so there's sort of, uh, a spine around the planet—

**TREXEL**

Yes!

**DAVID**

—which is the dinner table!

**TREXEL**

A dinner spine.

**DAVID**

Okay, um, maybe stretch it from pole to pole?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

And then around the equator are the... the larder of the planet which holds all of these delicacies.

**TREXEL**

Yes, you're going to need to keep them somewhere, and delicacies change for different species!

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

A delicacy for some gas is not the same as a delicacy for a germ.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

So we're gonna need big larders.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Massive planet. Big larders.

**DAVID**

Yes, planet-sized larders. Yeah, so we need something to make those animals aggressive—

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**DAVID**

—because obviously the— you know, we need a stock for the delicacies—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—and it makes sense that the delicacies are the animals, and those animals are aggressive.

**TREXEL**

You won't have to— You don't want to have to go out to the shops mid— mid schmooze.

**DAVID**

Exactly.

**TREXEL**

So let's— let's make the whole planet— the whole rest of the planet the larder in which the delicacies are contained. But those delicacies need to be furious!

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Furious delicacies!

**DAVID**

Yes, exactly. **(stutters)** Some of th-th-the universal, or galactic delicacies that exist. I mean, I've actually never eaten anything that comes out of a tube, so I don't really know!

**TREXEL**

**(Hums)** Aah. Aah. Quintessent jelly.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

That's the pinnacle of what I know. It— it's— it's a floating orb of shimmering gel. I don't know what it's from, but it tastes like sunshine simulated through a— through a star shield. It tastes like the first hug on a wet morning. It tastes like the smell of hot, baking matter fresh out of daddy's oven.

**DAVID**

...Right. So, if that came from a thing,

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

what would make that thing angry?

**TREXEL**

Well, what would make it angry? If that— if that beautiful jelly came from an animal, what would make that animal cross? **(abrupt and emotional)**

Slamming doors. Shouting from other rooms— you don't know what they're saying, but you know it's about you. It's your fault, Trexel! It's your fault that they're cross!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Warning: consultant spiralling.

**TREXEL**

**(Loud and hoarse)** That's why they left each other. That's why Mommy and Daddy got divorced because you were a bad boy. A bad boy, Trexel!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Sadness detected. Security alerted.

**DAVID**

**(Beat)** ...Right. So maybe just some slamming doors and some arguments then. Some nice, generic arguments.

**TREXEL**

Yes. Really— really alienate an animal as a child—

**DAVID**

Right. Okay.

**TREXEL**

—and then it'll make delicious jelly. I think that's what I'm saying.

**DAVID**

**(Taken aback)** Okay. Right! Well, you're the expert!

**TREXEL**

So we need to emotionally alienate all the— Yes, because true anger comes from within. Have you found this, David? Have you found this?

**DAVID**

You know what? Yes.

**TREXEL**

All of your problems truly, all of the most angering problems really, they come from within. So to make animals cross all the time regardless of what else is happening, you need to really make them angry at source.

**DAVID**

Right. So we need to raise all of these animals

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

in emotionally distant ways.

**TREXEL**

Yes. Make them co-dependent on other entities that are not helpful for them,

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

and then take those entities away. Really just emotionally traumatise a load of animals, and then release them onto a planet to be later eaten by intergalactic guests.

**DAVID**

Well, what if we could make the planet emotionally traumatise them actively, so that when they bred—

**TREXEL**

Ooh! Ooh! Ooh! Ooh! Ooh! A psychic shield!

**DAVID**

Right!

**TREXEL**

A psychic shield! Have you ha—ha—had a psychic shield?

**DAVID**

**(Deadpan)** I've been in this room for the last week and two days.

**TREXEL**

Of course, of course, of course, of course. But you ever... seen a psychic shield?

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

Okay well, a psychic shield— It is a— a plane, like a plane of light, and as you go through it, it just scrambles your mind. In any way you want!

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

Maybe it'll make you stop smoking. Maybe it'll make you, you know, enjoy ginger. Or maybe it will emotionally traumatise you in a massive way.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

Whatever you put the setting at. Those are the three main settings.

**DAVID**

Okay so, what was it again? Ginger—

**TREXEL**

Ginger.

**DAVID**

—emotional trauma—

**TREXEL**

Or stop smoking.

**DAVID**

—or stop smoking.

**TREXEL**

Yes!

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

You can— you can make it do other things, but those are the three presets.

**DAVID**

Right. So, I think we're probably gonna have to deal with the, uh, the— the third preset, which is—

**TREXEL**

Well, it's nice that it's there.

**DAVID**

—emotional trauma.

**TREXEL**

Yes!

**DAVID**

Right. So, what you're saying is maybe we have this dinner table spine.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

That's safe 'cause it's not good—

**TREXEL**

That's a safe zone.

**DAVID**

Not good to emotionally traumatise your guests when they come to dinner.

**TREXEL**

No! No!

**DAVID**

Got a nice starport, (**Trexel grunts**) which just ferries them down and lands them on whatever size is appropriate. Um—

**TREXEL**

Yes. Maybe there's some sort of, like, funnelling system, and like, as the funnel becomes too narrow that's when it goes "Oop! You're too big now!" and it plops ya down.

**DAVID**

Yeah, and maybe we need some sort of communication system, because of course if— if— if Megatron's really big,

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

and they're entertaining something that's really small,

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**DAVID**

well they've got to go to the small seats, which could be on the other side of the planet,

**TREXEL**

Could be.

**DAVID**

so, you know, you need to be able to sort of ring up and maybe have a call— some sort of video call.

**TREXEL**

Yes. Yes, I could— it'll be intercom pointed at all points of the table so everybody can speak to everyone else, but if there's somebody there that you don't like, you can ignore them.

**DAVID**

Right. So it's a gigantic conference table?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

And, uh, then—

**TREXEL**

And everybody knows that meals served at a conference table are the best kind of meals. Business meals.

**DAVID**

I'm gonna trust you there. Never had a meal

**TREXEL**

Mm.

**DAVID**

that's not from a tube.

**TREXEL**

No.

**DAVID**

With anyone else.

**TREXEL**

Yum.

**DAVID**

Just on my own. **(sighs)**

**TREXEL**

Tasty.

**(Beat)**

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Sadness detected. Security alerted.

**TREXEL**

**(Beat)**

You look sad, David. Have you been through a psychic shield?

**DAVID**

**(Surprised)** What? No, no. No, I've never been out of this room. Anyway, so you're talking about these psychic shields—

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**DAVID**

—so we criss-cross the planet with them—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—so that wherever the animals go they're just walking through psychic shield, psychic shield, psychic shield—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—and they're completely emotionally traumatised.

**TREXEL**

Yes, and therefore, furious!

**DAVID**

Absolutely, absolutely livid.

**TREXEL**

Ready to murder.

**DAVID**

Ready to murder. So, we need a way to murder those animals!

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

And a way to cook those animals and a way to serve those animals.

**TREXEL**

Do you know what? Two of those can be solved by our old friend... lasers.

**DAVID**

Right!

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** You kill and you cook at the same time! Laser Friend, Laser Friend.

Cheap but twice the price now!

**TREXEL AND DAVID**

**(Sings)** Laser Friend, Laser Friend.

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** Do you want the thing that's dead?

**TREXEL AND DAVID**

**(Sings)** Laser Friend, Laser Friend.

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** Well, why not cook it as well instead?

**TREXEL AND DAVID**

**(Sings)** Laser Friend, Laser Friend!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Laser Friend trademarked.

**DAVID**

Alright, well, I'm on board with the lasers now—

**TREXEL**

It's a good item!

**DAVID**

—'cause there's been a good song!

**TREXEL**

It's a good song!

**DAVID**

It's a good song, so that means I completely agree with everything the song said!

**TREXEL**

Everything— everything that sort of rhymes is right.

**DAVID**

Pretty much! That's what I've learned.

**TREXEL**

So we use— We give them all laser rifles.

**(Pause)**

David.

**DAVID**

Yes?

**TREXEL**

I feel like we may have forgotten an incredibly core element.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

It's a prank planet, David. It's a prank planet!

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

Where's the prank?

**DAVID**

**(Slowly)** The prank is that all of your food has been horribly emotionally traumatised.

**TREXEL**

Exactly! As you eat it, you taste the sadness, and you're like, "Mmm! This— this— this jelly is quite nice, but there's something there. What is it?" And then you jump out from behind a bush and say, "It was traumatised! Ha ha!"

**DAVID**

Yes, so you've got—

**TREXEL**

And everyone feels sad.

**DAVID**

Right, well, I guess we need a lot of big bushes for Megatron to hide behind then.

**TREXEL**

Oh, there has to be plenty of big bushes.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

Otherwise, what would the animals graze on?

**DAVID**

Yes!

**TREXEL**

It's a good question.

**DAVID**

It's a very good question. What do these animals—

**TREXEL**

I was al— I was— I was thinking, David. I'm always thinking.

**DAVID**

**(Under his breath)** Okay. Right.

**TREXEL**

Always there.

**DAVID**

So we need to make sure that these rare delicacies graze only on bushes.

**TREXEL**

Oh, sure. We can't have anything that doesn't eat bushes. Otherwise, I mean, I don't know what they're gonna eat. Each other? Oh my god, David, they can also eat each other.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

Thus, the flavours mingle.

**DAVID**

Right!

**TREXEL**

Don't— don't you want to eat a sort of leopard thing that's eaten a sort of horse thing and be like, "Mmm! What do they taste like now?" Leopard horse.

**DAVID**

So you'll— you want some sort of like... empirical beautiful jelly?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

That's been eaten by a bee.

**TREXEL**

Sure.

**DAVID**

Why not! Maybe it's made of royal jelly. Maybe it's remixed the rare delicacies into new rarer delicacies.

**TREXEL**

Exactly. And it— and it— and it grows exponentially, because maybe that bee has been eaten by some sort of tentacula.

**DAVID**

Yeah, it's a kind of delectable alchemy.

**TREXEL**

Mmm! Taste these tentacula deep-fried rings. You can really taste the royal jelly from a bee!

**DAVID**

Well, whatever Megatron wants to do with this planet, anyone who visits will definitely have an experience.

**TREXEL**

And that experience dining is what it's all about.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

When you're trying to schmooze a client, experienced dining. Confuse them—

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

—alarm them, entice them. Experienced dining.

**DAVID**

Here is an emotionally traumatised quadruped that's been eaten by an emotionally traumatised octoped, that's been eaten by an emotionally traumatised nonaped, which has been eaten by an emotionally traumatised decaped, and now it's on your plate because we killed it with a laser!

**TREXEL**

And it's all inside a big confusing bird.

**DAVID**

Why not.

**TREXEL**

Tasty, tasty bird. Excellent! Excellent. I think that's covered pretty much all we need to! You can entertain your guests on the delicacies that have been the most emotionally traumatised of any animals you've ever seen, you've already cooked them with your laser gun, and also... the pranks in there! Look what you're eating. You're eating sadness.

**DAVID**

Ssssadness.

**TREXEL**

You're eating a— a big plate of sadness.

**DAVID**

**(Deadpan)** What a good prank.

**TREXEL**

And then you're thinking, "Why do I feel so sad?" and then Megatron comes up to you and says, "It's because of the humans! The humans make you feel sad! Join and rise! Rise up with me!"

**DAVID**

Right. Well, I think we've really successfully galvanised an anti-human revolution.

**IMOGEN**

**(Crosstalk) [Beep]** Warning: culpability detected. Security alerted.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk) (Stammering)** I mean I'm— I'm inside of a big spaceship. What do I care?

**DAVID**

I don't know.

**TREXEL**

We've got security! It's not important. Well, come on, David! Quickly! Quickly get it in the tube! We're running out of time!

**(David and Trexel yelling incoherently over each other)**

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Would you like to submit?

**[Chime, pneumatic tube hissing]**

**IMOGEN**

Submitting.

**TREXEL**

There it is.

**DAVID**

Right. There it goes.

**TREXEL**

Perfect. Another nugget of pure quantum gold from Trexel Geistman.

**DAVID**

You're so talented, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

**(Quietly)** I am.

**DAVID**

**(Quietly)** Yes.

**TREXEL**

I am. But there's plenty more celebrating to be done, David.

**DAVID**

**(Slightly worried)** Well, what— No, Trexel—

**TREXEL**

Only three days— Only remember two of them.

**DAVID**

Why doesn't the— Trexel, why don't you just try and, maybe, sleep for a night and— and relish that strange action. Really, sleeping is the ball of planet design.

**TREXEL**

David, if you're not here, and I'm not there, and by here and there, I mean the edges of my vision are beginning to darken, then what the hell do you know about me? I'm falling over now!

**[Thud and clothing rustles]**

**DAVID**

Oh, right. There he goes.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Consultant unconscious.

**[Bwoop of lights turning off]**

**DAVID**

**(Whispering)** Actually, hang on a minute... If I just grab his arm...

**(Grunts)**

**[Bwoop and door whoosh]**

**DAVID**

There's the door.

**(Grunts)**

There's the light.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Access granted.

**[Bwoop]**

**DAVID**

Now he won't be late. Good one, David. **(softly)** Good one, David.

**[Show Theme – Outro]**

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Stellar Firma 6 – Pranks and Robots

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